

Informix Portfolio Future Directions



Data Management Solutions

White Paper

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Table of Content

Trademarks	3
Summary	4
Letter to Customers	6
Letter to Business Partners	8
Future Direction for Informix	
Products	9
Database Servers	9
Informix Dynamic Server (IDS)	9
Red Brick Decision Server	9
Extended Parallel Server	10
Foundation Product Bundles	10
Arrowhead	10
“Classic” Products	11
Administration Tools	11
U2 Offerings (UniVerse / UniData)	12
UniVerse	12
UniData	12
Cloudscape	12
Integration Products	13
Connectivity Software	13
Gateways	14
DataBlade Modules	14
Database Tools	15
4GL	15
Dynamic 4GL	15
I-Spy	15
MaxConnect	15
MetaCube	15
NewEra	15
Object Translator	15
Office Connect	16
Informix-SQL	16
Tools for U2 (UniVerse/UniData)	
Environment	17
COBOL Direct Connect	17
MITS	17
RedBack	17
SystemBuilder	17
wIntegrate	17
PI/Open	17

Summary

IBM intends to continue to support the Informix products it plans to acquire and to enhance the majority of these products to fulfill the needs of customers and business partners. In addition, IBM intends to build upon the Arrowhead vision announced by Informix last year, integrating key technologies from a number of Informix products into future releases of DB2.

IBM is committed to meeting current Informix commitments for new releases, and will continue to enhance the products beyond these commitments to meet Informix customer requirements.

Protecting Your Investment

Customers and business partners should be confident that their existing investments in the Informix portfolio will continue to be supported and enhanced as described in this paper.

Multi-Platform Support

IBM is dedicated to multi-platform support. IBM middleware, including DB2, currently support a large number of Unix platforms, including those from HP, Sun and their own AIX and NUMA-Q versions. Informix products are available on a wide variety of Unix platforms including those offered by IBM, Sun, HP, SCO, NCR, Compaq, SGI and many others. IBM is committed to maintaining and supporting a wide variety of Unix versions with both the Informix products and DB2 family of products moving forward.

Commitment to Open Standards

IBM and Informix share a strong commitment to open standards. IBM is acknowledged as the leader in definition and support of open standards through various standards organizations. Both the Informix and IBM database families currently support ANSI SQL, the X Open-BSA backup standard, Java2 Enterprise Edition, a variety of Linux standards, and many other key open standards. The acquisition of Informix by IBM ensures continued support for these open standards that customers depend on.

Migration to DB2

Satisfied Informix customers and business partners can continue to rely on the existing product line to support their existing applications. When and if customers are interested in migration, IBM is also making it simple to integrate DB2 into their existing application and information infrastructure or migrate to DB2. IBM will be there for them when they are ready. For new applications and additional functionality, users have two options: (1) they can migrate to another Informix product, for example from IDS 7 to IDS 9, using existing facilities of that product, or (2) deploy new applications on DB2 Universal Database. For users who wish to migrate existing data and applications to DB2, IBM will provide services and migration tools as appropriate to help facilitate this process. Customers and business partners interested in exploring current capabilities of DB2 will find information and free downloads available at <http://www.software.ibm.com/data/db2>.

Meeting Your Needs

IBM and Informix both have a strong history of supporting customers and business partners over the long term with products that are critical to meeting their business needs. This acquisition promises to bring Informix users continued support for their products of choice, greater financial stability from their DBMS vendor, and an exciting future with new levels of technical innovation.

Letter to Customers

Dear Valued Customer:

Informix and IBM recently announced an agreement for IBM to acquire the Informix database business. IBM has a decades-long history of delivering mission critical database solutions, starting on mainframes and growing explosively in recent years on distributed Unix, Linux and Windows/NT platforms.

As you know, Informix is a leading provider of distributed database management systems for business intelligence and transaction processing. With the Informix acquisition, IBM strengthens its position in distributed database increasing its ability to attract an even larger community of application and services providers. Additionally, IBM and Informix share common values of excellence in technology, outstanding customer support, great business value and a focus on customer satisfaction.

We anticipate that the Informix acquisition will close in the third quarter. Once the acquisition is complete, IBM will strive to maintain the relationships and support that you value today. Our goal is to minimize change to these sales, support and services relationships in the future, and we expect that most of the Informix individuals you work with today will continue to support you.

We know you have mission critical applications deployed on Informix products and IBM intends to continue to execute a strategy to support and enhance existing Informix products for the foreseeable future. Over the long term, IBM intends to integrate key Informix technologies into future versions of DB2.

Database software is a key growth area and IBM continues to make significant investments in technology, sales, and customer support. With this acquisition, IBM is investing an incremental \$1B to ensure your future, broader support by applications and services providers, and IBM's commitment to your ongoing satisfaction. Informix and IBM appreciate your investment in Informix solutions but we do not take it for granted. The new IBM and Informix team will work hard to earn your continued business, and looks forward to working with you to leverage information in the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Jim Foy
President,
Informix Software

Janet Perna
General Manager, Data Management Solutions,
IBM Software Group

Letter to Business Partners

Dear Valued Business Partner:

Informix and IBM recently announced an agreement for IBM to acquire the Informix database business. With this acquisition, IBM is investing an incremental \$1B in database technology, sales, and customer support to ensure future growth. IBM has a decades-long history of delivering mission critical database solutions, starting on mainframes and growing explosively in recent years on distributed Unix, Linux and Windows/NT platforms. In fact, over the last 14 quarters, IBM's DB2 Universal Database has grown 3-4X faster than the database industry and in the last quarter, 6X faster than Oracle's 6% growth.

As you know, Informix is a leading provider of distributed database management systems for business intelligence and transaction processing. With the Informix acquisition, IBM strengthens its position in distributed database, increasing its ability to attract an even larger community of customers, which we anticipate will translate into increased business opportunity for you. Like Informix, IBM is committed to technology excellence, outstanding customer support, providing great business value, and a strong relationship with Business Partners.

Today, your company and Informix have mutual customers who have implemented mission critical applications and solutions on Informix. We also know that you have made significant investments in supporting the Informix products. In order to ensure a smooth path for you and our customers, IBM intends to continue to execute a strategy to support and enhance existing Informix products for the foreseeable future. Over the long term, IBM intends to integrate key Informix technologies into future versions of DB2 and looks forward to having the opportunity to work with as you extend your businesses.

Business partners are a key part of the Data Management strategy for both IBM and Informix and with this in mind, IBM has been making significant investments in working with Business Partners worldwide. Since 1998, the number of Business Partners supporting IBM's DB2 Universal Database has doubled to over 13,000 while the number of applications they provide has tripled to over 27,000. In addition, last year IBM's DB2 Universal Database placed first in VAR Business' Annual Report Card. The explosive growth of IBM's DB2 partner program is a direct result of IBM's partnership philosophy and echoes the endorsement that IBM is getting from companies around the world who have selected DB2 as the base for their information infrastructure.

We anticipate that the Informix acquisition will close in the third quarter. Once the acquisition is complete, IBM will strive to extend the relationships and support that you value today. IBM's goal is to continue to provide excellent technology and support for the solutions you provide while working with you on new opportunities for growth. Additional information regarding IBM's acquisition of Informix and the impact it will have on the Business Partner community is available on the IBM PartnerWorld internet site at <http://www.ibm.com/partnerworld>. We ask that you take a look at this information if you are not already familiar with IBM and let us know how we can be of greater assistance in helping you to grow your business. Informix and IBM appreciate your investment in Informix solutions but we do not take it for granted. The combined IBM and Informix team will work hard to earn your continued support, and look forward to working with you to capitalize on this growing opportunity.

Sincerely,

Jim Foy
President,
Informix Software

Janet Perna
General Manager, Data Management Solutions,
IBM Software Group

Future Direction for Informix Products

This paper explains IBM's current intended direction for products that it is acquiring from Informix. The plans and directions outlined in this paper are predicated upon the closing of IBM's purchase of assets from Informix that was announced on April 24, 2001 and are subject to change. Products are grouped into three categories: database servers (including the Foundation bundle), integration products, and database tools.

Database Servers

Informix Dynamic Server (IDS)

Informix currently supports two major versions of database servers named Informix Dynamic Server (IDS) Version 7 (latest release available 7.31) and Version 9 (latest release available 9.21). IDS 7 is a relational DBMS server that provides for high performance and scalability. IDS 9 includes all IDS 7 functions, but adds features for Internet computing applications, including object-relational technology to help users store, retrieve and manage video, image, HTML, XML, and geo-spatial data. Informix offers seamless migration from IDS 7 to IDS 9 for interested users.

IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support IDS 7 and IDS 9. IDS 9 users may upgrade to the upcoming 9.3 release due in the third quarter of 2001. IDS 9.3 is designed to deliver quality, replication and performance enhancements.

Red Brick Decision Server

The Red Brick Decision Server (6.1) provides data warehousing and decision support for Internet-enabled analytic and business intelligence applications. IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support this product for customers and business partners and to fulfill Informix's plans to deliver a new release (6.2) in the first quarter of 2002.

Extended Parallel Server

The Extended Parallel Server (XPS) exploits parallel processing technologies in support of high-end data warehousing applications. IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support this product for customers and business partners and to fulfill Informix's plans to deliver a new release of XPS in 2002.

Foundation Product Bundles

Informix offers an Internet Foundation product bundle consisting of an ORDBMS (IDS 9), integration with popular Java virtual machines (Informix J/Foundation), DBMS extensions to support a variety of Web data types (Informix Web DataBlade module), DBMS extensions to support full-text document searches (Excalibur Text Search DataBlade module), software to aid retrieval of data into Microsoft Excel spreadsheets (Informix Office Connect), and object-relational mapping software (Informix Object Translator). IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support the underlying products of this bundled offering.

In addition, Informix recently announced a Foundation bundle for Financial Services (Finance Foundation) and plans to deliver others for retail and law enforcement. Like its Internet Foundation bundle, these new bundles are expected to consist of existing Informix products, primarily its IDS 9 server and one or more appropriate DataBlade modules. As with the Internet Foundation bundle, IBM intends to continue to sell and support the underlying products of these bundled offerings and integrate key technologies into DB2.

Arrowhead

At its user group meeting last year, Informix announced plans to deliver a new server offering -- code-named "Arrowhead" -- to address emerging e-business requirements. These plans called for combining key technologies from IDS, XPS, Red Brick and Foundation into a single DBMS platform designed to support both online transaction processing (OLTP) and decision support requirements. High levels of scalability, performance, and availability were key to the server's design. Other key design points included efficient support for a wide range of data types and advanced business analysis techniques.

IBM shares a similar vision of emerging customer requirements and is already delivering many elements of the Arrowhead vision today in DB2, its strategic database offering. IBM intends to continue to enhance DB2 and Informix offerings to address emerging e-business requirements and intends to draw upon key technologies in IDS, XPS, Red Brick and Foundation to integrate into future releases of DB2. IBM is building upon DB2 because of its leading technology in areas such as parallelism, high availability, scalability, query optimization, information integration, object relational extensibility, XML support, and ease of use while Informix brings key business intelligence, transaction processing, object relational and data synchronization technology.

"Classic" Products

Informix supports three products that it refers to as its "classic" offerings: **OnLine 5**, an OLTP server for the low-end Unix and Linux markets; **C-ISAM**, a library of C functions for managing Indexed Sequential Access Method (ISAM) files; and **SE**, a low-maintenance, SQL-based DBMS for small- to medium-range business applications. IBM intends to continue to sell and support these products for customers and business partners.

Administration Tools

Informix supports two products for database administration: **Informix Server Administrator (ISA)** an collection of web-based administrative tools; and **I-DBA**, a collection of four MS Windows-based administrative tools. Informix is currently planning to replace I-DBA with the third-party developed **Informix Server Studio JE** in the second half of 2001. IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support ISA and to move ahead with plans for Server Studio JE.

U2 Offerings (*UniVerse* / *UniData*)

UniVerse

UniVerse is an extended-relational DBMS that supports standard SQL and offers ActiveX, Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) and Java interfaces. IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support UniVerse and to fulfill Informix's intention to deliver a development release of this offering (UniVerse 10) in the fourth quarter of 2001.

UniData

UniData is an extended-relational, ODBC-compliant DBMS that supports repeating groups, hierarchies, and arrays. IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support UniData and to fulfill Informix's plans to deliver a development release of this offering (UniData 6.0) in the first half of 2002.

For more information also see the U2 Tools section below.

Cloudscape

Cloudscape is a Java database designed for embedded and mobile applications. IBM intends to maintain and support Cloudscape for existing users as part of its embedded and mobile database efforts. IBM intends to evaluate and integrate selected technologies from Cloudscape into the DB2 Family. Those customers and business partners interested in a DB2-based solution for mobile and embedded applications may wish to explore the capabilities of DB2 Everyplace; for details, visit <http://www.software.ibm.com/data/db2>.

Integration Products

Informix offers a suite of products to enable clients to connect to its DBMSs, access data spanning multiple data sources, and work with a variety of specialized data types. This section summarizes IBM's intentions for this suite of integration products.

Connectivity Software

Informix offers four products to promote connectivity from client applications to its servers:

- **Informix Client SDK**, which packages several application programming interfaces (APIs) for its servers into a single offering. Support is included for JDBC, C, C++, ESQL/C, Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) and OLE DB client side provider.
- **Informix Connect**, the runtime libraries required by the non-Java components of Informix Client SDK. This software is required for deployed client application to access Informix servers.
- **Informix JDBC Driver**, a pure Java type 4 driver based on the latest 1.x and 2.x Java Database Connectivity (JDBC) specifications. Embedded SQL/J is part of the Informix JDBC driver.
- **ESQL/COBOL**, for connectivity to COBOL language applications.

IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support these products and to fulfill Informix's plans to offer a development release of the Informix Client SDK and JDBC products in the second half of 2001.

Gateways

To enable Informix customers and business partners to access data spanning multiple data sources, Informix offers the **Informix-Enterprise Gateway Manager** and the **Informix-Gateway with DRDA**. The Enterprise Gateway Manager provides programmers with transparent access to a number of non-Informix DBMSs, including those offered by IBM, Sybase and Oracle. The Gateway with DRDA (Distributed Relational Database Architecture) provides programmers access to IBM's DB2 family, using connectivity protocols defined by IBM. IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support both of these products.

DataBlade Modules

DataBlade modules extend IDS 9 to manage a variety of specialized data types. Informix offers the following DataBlades:

- **Informix Spatial DataBlade module**, which enables users to manage geo-spatial data and features a specialized R-tree index to ensure high performance.
- **Excalibur Image DataBlade module**, which provides for image retrieval and feature management.
- **Informix Image Foundation DataBlade module**, which provides for image translation, retrieval of Image metadata, and image format conversion.
- **Excalibur Text Search DataBlade module**, which supports full-text searching of documents stored in the DBMS.
- **Informix C-ISAM DataBlade module**, which provides for SQL access and database management support of C-ISAM files.
- **Informix Geodetic DataBlade module**, which stores and manipulates four-dimensional objects; it is particularly useful for managing spatio-temporal data.
- **Informix NAG DataBlade module**, which eases numerical analysis.
- **Informix TimeSeries DataBlade module**, which supports management and analysis of time series data.
- **Informix Video Foundation DataBlade module**, which provides an open architecture for video-enabling technologies.
- **Informix Web DataBlade module**, which eases the development and management of Web-based DBMS applications.
- **Verity Text Search DataBlade module**, which provides advanced search and retrieval functions spanning more than 100 different file formats.

IBM intends to continue to sell and support these products and to integrate key technologies from selected DataBlade modules into future releases of DB2.

Database Tools

4GL

The Informix 4GL family provides a character based, fourth-generation application development environment that includes the Rapid Development System, Interactive Debugger, and 4GL Compiler. IBM intends to continue to sell and support this product.

Dynamic 4GL

The Dynamic 4GL provides a means to migrate 4GL applications to a variety of graphical application development environments, including those that are Web-based. IBM intends to support this product.

I-Spy

I-Spy helps IDS and XPS data warehouse architects monitor client usage patterns and adjust resources accordingly. IBM intends to continue to sell and support this product.

MaxConnect

MaxConnect helps improve the scalability and performance of IDS 7, IDS 9, and XPS servers by separating server connection management tasks from SQL (user) session management tasks and off loading certain work to a middle tier. IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support this product.

MetaCube

MetaCube provides online analytical processing (OLAP) support for Informix customers and business partners. IBM intends to continue to sell and support this product for existing customers and business partners.

NewEra

NewEra is an interactive development environment for graphical, object-relational database applications. IBM plans no change in status for this product.

Object Translator

Object Translator is designed to simplify development of Java applications that publish or exchange XML data to and from any Informix Online, IDS, XPS, Red Brick or Cloudscape

database, as well as any JDBC, ODBC, or OLE DB compliant database. IBM intends to continue to sell and support this product.

Office Connect

Office Connect helps users develop and deploy applications for Microsoft Excel that require DBMS connectivity. IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support this product .

Informix-SQL

Informix-SQL consists of five application development tools: a schema editor, menu builder, SQL editor, forms builder, and report writer. IBM intends to continue to sell and support this **product**.

Visionary

Visionary is a new business analysis tool featuring a unique "dashboard" interface to help busy executives quickly analyze data stored in IDS 7, IDS 9, XPS, Red Brick, DB2, Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server, and Microsoft Access databases. IBM intends to sell and support Visionary for existing customers and business partners.

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Tools for U2 (UniVerse/UniData) Environment

COBOL Direct Connect

COBOL Direct Connect is a conversion tool and runtime interface. It allows customers to covert C-ISAM files to UniData tables and continue to run the COBOL application while enjoying the advantages of an extended-relational database. IBM intends to continue to sell and support this product for existing customers and business partners.

MITs

Management Information Tools Software (MITs) is an online analytical processing (OLAP) tool that supports UniVerse and UniData DBMS's. Informix has an exclusive agreement with Management Information Tools, Inc. (MITI) to market, sell, and distribute this product. IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support this product.

RedBack

RedBack is a Web development and runtime environment designed to support the UniVerse and UniData DBMSs. Informix intends to deliver a maintenance release of RedBack in the second quarter of 2001. IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support this product.

SystemBuilder

SystemBuilder offers rapid application development support for the UniVerse and UniData DBMSs. IBM intends to fulfill Informix's plans to deliver a new release of SystemBuilder in 2001 and to enhance, sell and support this product.

wIntegrate

wIntegrate helps provide host-based applications with a graphical user interface (GUI) and integration with popular desktop software. IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support this product.

PI/Open

PI/Open is an extended-relational database. IBM intends to continue to sell and support this product for existing customers and business partners

Notices

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